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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,824	02/12/2004	Lynn W. Schultz	7883	5701
22922	7590	12/14/2005		
REINHART BOERNER VAN DEUREN S.C. ATTN: LINDA KASULKE, DOCKET COORDINATOR 1000 NORTH WATER STREET SUITE 2100 MILWAUKEE, WI 53202			EXAMINER BEACH, THOMAS A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/777,824	Applicant(s) SCHULTZ ET AL.	
	Examiner Thomas A. Beach	Art Unit 3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 17-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 5-7, 11, 12, 18-20, and 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by HIRAMA et al 20020149673. HIRAMA shows facilitating the alignment of a hitching mechanism located on a vehicle with a mating hitching mechanism located on an object to be removably connected to the vehicle, said system comprising: a target area 5 located on the object to be removably connected to the vehicle, said target area facing the vehicle when the object to be removably connected to the vehicle is in position for connection to the vehicle; a sealed video camera 2 (inherently includes a wiring harness; claims 6-7) for installation in fixed position on the vehicle, said video camera being oriented toward said target area on the object removably connected to the vehicle when the object to be removably connected to the vehicle is in position for connection to the vehicle; and a video monitor for placement in the passenger compartment of said vehicle in a position in which it may be viewed by a driver of the vehicle, said video monitor for displaying thereon an image viewed by said video camera. HIRAMA shows a monitor in the dash (claim 11) in which CRT or LCD are commonly used (claim 12) using a trailer with the camera adjacent the trailer hitch with

a the target area (18-20). Hirama shows that the camera capable be on the vehicle (claim 25).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2-3 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirama et al 20020149673 in view of Engel 5,452,982. Hirama does not show indicia however, Engle shows a similar hitching system that uses an alignment indicia located on said surface in a position in which said alignment indicia will be the center said image when the object be removably connected to the vehicle is in position for connection to the vehicle (col. 2, lines 5-28). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hirama, as taught by Engle, to include, lines and colors being obvious since Examiner take official notice of indicia that uses markings and color to enhance visibility, indicia to improve accuracy of alignment using cameras during hitching.

5. Claim 8-10 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirama et al 20020149673 in view of Mill 6,222,457. Hirama does not disclose wireless transmitters and a battery; however, Mills shows a similar hitching system that uses wireless receivers, transmitters using sensors and RF waves/infrared reflecting

waves and a battery. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hirama, as taught by Engle, to include wireless components such as transmitter and receiver, along with a battery for ease installation without wires.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Beach whose telephone number is 571.272.6988. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 571.272.6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3671

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas A. Beach

December 8, 2005

THOMAS A. BEACH
Patent Examiner
Group 3600